

A NEW SPECIES OF *CHOLOMUS* FROM PANAMA
(COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE: CHOLINAE)

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ABSTRACT

Cholomus panamensis is described from Panama; the genus, now of 5 species, is briefly characterized.

In material sent to me by Dr. Henry P. Stockwell of the Canal Zone, Panama, I found a new species of the peculiar genus, *Cholomus* Roelofs. The new species is from Central America, whereas the 4 other known species are from South America (Colombia and Ecuador). Specimens are apparently rare as I have seen only 3 specimens of the new species and only 13 of the 4 other species. Nothing has been published on their habits. Since its description in 1880, this aberrant genus has been mentioned in the literature only 3 or 4 times.

The following characters, not repeated in the species' description, should serve for recognition of the genus:

Metasternum in lateral view very tumid and advanced beyond line of prothorax (fig. 1); eyes very small, widely separated above, generally hidden by large subocular lobe of pronotum; pronotum with anterior border produced over head; scutellum very small; front coxae very widely separated; metepisternum very narrow; prosternum with anterior border deeply excavate; femora with inner tooth minute or obsolete; tibiae uncinata (mucro lacking), with fringe of setae confined to apex, not ascending tibiae; claws at base connate. Males with long projection on mesosternum between coxae; abdomen with inner apex of terminal segment bent inward.

Cholomus panamensis Vaurie, new species

Fig. 1

TYPE-SERIES: Holotype, male, Panama, Panama, Cerro Campana, 850 meters, 8° 40' N 19° 56' W, 13-V-1973, Henry P. Stockwell, and 2 female paratypes with same data, but 1 at 800 m., 29-IV-1970, and 1 at 8° 40' N 7° 56' W, 1-VII-1972, in Stockwell collection, Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama.

DIAGNOSIS: Resembling other species in having clusters of yellow scales on elytra, but pattern differing (see below). Male differing from males of other species in having apex of aedeagus truncate-emarginate, not acuminate or rounded, and mesosternal projection tongue shaped and flattish, not recurved.

RANGE: Known only from the type-locality.

DESCRIPTION: Holotype, male, length 13 mm. Black with yellow scales on dorsum. Pronotum with 2 lateral stripes of roundish, yellow, horizontal scales, stripes not reaching apex; elytra with some scales on humerus, and striae with from 2 to 7 clusters consisting of from 8 to 20 or more dense yellow scales; sutural striae not scaly. Rostrum arcuate, slightly longer than pronotum, punctate densely but finely from base to insertion of antennae. Antennae inserted in front of middle of

rostrum. Pronotum rather flat, but feebly concave at middle and base; densely, finely punctate, but with several feeble tubercles. Elytra wider than, and about twice length of, pronotum; disk deplanate; striae with large, squarish foveae separated by their diameter; intervals with scarcely visible minute granules; base bisinuate, with anterolateral sharp angles; subapical callus evident. Prosternum with sides tuberculate. Mesosternum with tongue-shaped, nearly flat, impunctate projection extending, in lateral view, at sharp angle beyond middle coxae. Femora with small tooth. Front tarsi larger than other tarsi. Abdomen with segments 1 and 2 concave medially; terminal segment with sparse hairs and 2 depressions each side of apex; bent-inward apical flap triangular medially. Aedeagus with parameres and basal sclerite (inner armature); median lobe short, square; apex truncate with small median emargination.

VARIATION: The 2 females measure 11 and 13 mm. They differ from the male type in having the rostrum narrower, the antennae inserted farther back, the mesosternal projection merely tumid, not extending beyond the middle coxae, the abdomen convex, not depressed, the front tarsi smaller, the anterolateral angle of the elytra lacking, the sides of the metasternum with scattered scales. In 1 female the surface of the pronotum is entirely flatly tuberculate as well as punctate. In both paratypes there is no concavity on the pronotum, but a narrow, raised, impunctate median line.

DISCUSSION: The 2 to 7 scaly clusters of the elytral striae are spaced irregularly, not in the same position on all rows, and they thus form a kind of vague pattern of dots which is quite different from the V-shaped or transverse patterns of the 4 other species.

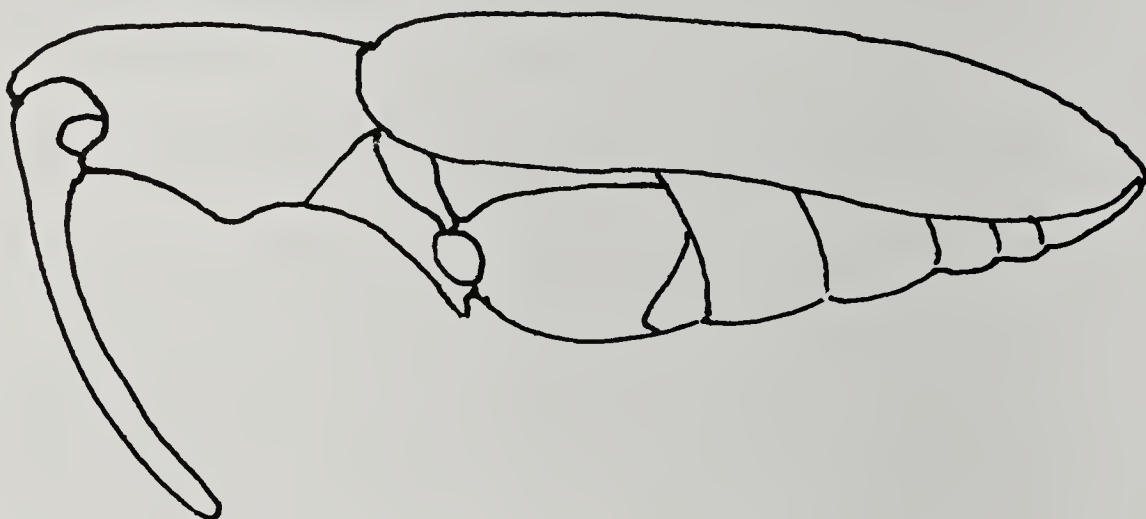


Fig. 1. *Cholomus panamensis*, holotype, male.

KEY CHARACTERS

In my key (1974:6), *C. panamensis* does not agree with either statement in the first couplet; therefore this couplet may be preceded by the following:

- 1a. Elytra with scales not in V-shaped stripes; scales in front of subapical callus forming circle of 5 to 7 scaly clusters; elytra of male lacking basal lateral carina..... *C. panamensis*
- 1a'. Elytra with scales in V-shaped stripes; subapical scales, if present, forming transverse band; elytra of male with feeble or strong basal lateral carina 1

LITERATURE CITED

- VAURIE, P. 1974. A new tribe for the South American genera *Cholomus* and *Irenarchus*. (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Cholinae). Amer. Mus. Novitates 2548: 1-13; Fig. 1-18.